

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 2, 3, and 5-8 are pending in the application.

Claims 3 and 5 depend from a canceled claim.

Claims 2, 3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda (5,937,391) in view of Walker et al. (6,338,049).

According to the foregoing, the claims are amended, and remain pending for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

The independent claims 2, 6, 7 and 8 are amended to clarify the following patentably distinguishing features (1) and (2) discussed below.

(1) A recognition code is issued by an issuing portion for an arbitrary number of reserved points requested by a customer, and data of a point use ticket comprises the recognition code and the requested arbitrary number of reserved points. Amended claim 2 recites:

~~a receiving portion that receives, from the customer, requests~~ **a request for an arbitrary number of reserved points from among the number of points accumulated in any one of the plurality of point-usepoint-usable facilities;**

an issuing portion that issues a recognition code for the requested arbitrary number of reserved points;

...

~~means for transmitting a transmitting portion that~~ **transmits data of a point use ticket comprising each the requested arbitrary number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points and each recognition code generated for each requested number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points, to the customer terminal device for providing the point use ticket; and the recognition code, to the terminal device for issuance of the point use ticket by printing the requested arbitrary number of reserved points and the recognition code at the customer side.**

Support for the aforementioned amendments can be found at least Page 9, Lines 29-Page 10, Line 2, and Page 13, Lines 13-15 of the English Specification as filed of the present application.

(2) The requested arbitrary number of reserved points is printed together with the recognition code upon issuance of the point use ticket at the customer side (see "a transmitting portion that **transmits data of a point use ticket comprising each the requested arbitrary number of reserved points** and **the recognition code, to the terminal device for issuance of the point use ticket by printing the requested arbitrary number of reserved points and the recognition code at the customer side**").

Support for the aforementioned amendment can be found at least Page 11, Lines 28-29, Page 13, Lines 21-23, and Page 14, Lines 15-20 and Page 14, Lines 26-27 of the English Specification as originally filed of the present application.

The Office Action item 6 rejects claims 2-3 and 5-8 over Ikeda and Walker, however, the body of the rejection refers to Shinichi. It is respectfully understood, the rejection over Shinichi was traversed in the previous Amendment.

Nevertheless, Applicants traverse any rejections over Shinichi, IKeda and Walker as follows:

In the point-service system of the present invention, as recited in Claim 2, a customer can request an arbitrary number of reserved points. That is, in a point use ticket, a number of reserved points that is equal to the arbitrary number of reserved points is issued in compliance with the customer's request.

On the other hand, Shinichi discloses a system wherein a customer can request a number of reserved points from the point-usable facility issuing the points. However, among other differences, in Shinichi, a customer cannot request an arbitrary number of reserved points. This is because the ticket disclosed in Shinichi is a ticket on which at least a value and optically-readable ticket management data are printed in advance (see Page 1, Lines 14-16 "on which at least an value and optically-readable ticket management data are printed in advance" and Paragraph [0054], Lines 7-8 "on which ticket management data and a value are printed in advance" of English translation of Shinichi). In other words, in Shinichi paragraph 8, a ticket is taken out when a value of the ticket is in the range of the number of available points.

Specifically, in the system of Shinichi, for example, two kinds of tickets each having a different value printed thereon is prepared in advance. A customer designates the kind of ticket and the number thereof to select a kind of ticket. The value of the ticket is printed in advance prior to the designation by a customer, and thus, a customer cannot request an arbitrary value.

Upon issuance of a ticket, what is to be printed thereon is not the value thereof but just the issuing date thereof (see paragraph [0022], Lines 1-2 "The printing unit 44 prints an issue date on a ticket 2 as ticket information"; [0031], Lines 1-3 "When a user of the ticket issuing apparatus 1 inputs a kind of a ticket and the number of sheets of the ticket of each kind corresponding to the number of available points that can be issued as a ticket . . ." and [0054], Lines 16-18 "since a fixed format form on which ticket management data and a value are printed in advance is employed as a ticket issuance form" of English translation of Shinichi).

It is a patentably material distinction that, the present invention enables the issuance of a point use ticket in which the number of reserved points is not fixed to a certain value but can be arbitrarily designated by a customer.

In addition, since the system of Shinichi requires one kind of ticket for each value, many kinds of tickets must be prepared in advance for the purpose of addressing many kinds of values. Accordingly, an increased number of stackers are necessitated, thus resulting in the system being large-scaled.

On the contrary, since the system of the present invention requires only one kind of ticket regardless of the number of reserved points requested by a customer, plural kinds of tickets need not be prepared for the purpose of addressing plural kinds of numbers of reserved points possibly requested by a customer, thus not resulting in the system being large-scaled.

Neither of Ikeda and Walker also discloses expressly or implicitly the above-discussed patentably distinguishing features (1) and (2), because Ikeda is relied upon for discussing redeeming points from a plurality of shops. For example, the Office Action relies upon Ikeda FIG. 16 for allegedly discussing the claimed determining whether a point use ticket is usable by verifying a reference request for a number of reserved points, namely:

~~determines a point use ticket is usable by verifying a reference request from a point usable facility transmitting the point use ticket customer identifying information, the a number of reserved points of the point use ticket to be referred and the generated a recognition code of the point use ticket, with the use management database including verifying the use status of the referenced number of reserved points for the generated recognition code to be referred.~~

the verifying being conducted by comparing the number of reserved points and the recognition code of the point use ticket to be referred with the requested arbitrary number of reserved points

and the recognition code recorded in the use management database, respectively, and

the verifying including verifying a use status of the number of reserved points for the recognition code of the point use ticket to be referred.

For example, the present application page 10, lines 10-24 and page 16, lines 10-30 support the claims. However, Ikeda column 11, lines 64+ and FIG. 16 discuss adjustment of redeeming points among the shops when a customer buys in one shop and uses points of another shop, which differs from determining whether a point use ticket is usable.

And Walker's completion code 312 (FIG. 3A) is relied upon for allegedly disclosing the claimed "an issuing portion that **issues a recognition code for the requested arbitrary number of reserved points**," however, Walker column 6, lines 49-52 only discusses a completion code received from the user indicating the remote user terminal has completed the check creation process, which differs from a recognition code issued by the point-service system for the arbitrary number of reserved points requested by the user.

A prima facie case of obviousness based upon Shinichi and Ikeda cannot be established, because there is no evidence, either expressly or implicitly, that one skilled in the art would modify Shinichi's pre-printed paper ticket and Ikeda's discussion of point redemption from a plurality of shops and Walker's completion code, to provide the claimed:

a receiving portion that receives, from the customer, **a request for an arbitrary number of reserved points from among the number of points accumulated in any one of the point-usable facilities;**

an issuing portion that **issues a recognition code for the requested arbitrary number of reserved points;**

...

a transmitting portion that **transmits data of a point use ticket comprising the requested arbitrary number of reserved points and the recognition code, to the terminal device for issuance of the point use ticket by printing the requested arbitrary number of reserved points and the recognition code at the customer side; and**

a determining portion that **determines a point use ticket is usable by verifying ...**

the verifying being conducted by comparing the number of reserved points and the recognition code of the

point use ticket to be referred with the requested arbitrary number of reserved points and the recognition code recorded in the use management database, respectively, and

the verifying including verifying a use status of the number of reserved points for the recognition code of the point use ticket to be referred.

In view of the remarks and claim amendments, withdrawal of the rejection of pending claims and allowance of pending claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,
STAAS & HALSEY LLP

/Mehdi D. Sheikerz/

Date: _____ May 27, 2008 _____ By: _____
Mehdi Sheikerz
Registration No. 41,307

1201 New York Ave, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501